

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Paul H. Burmeister et al.

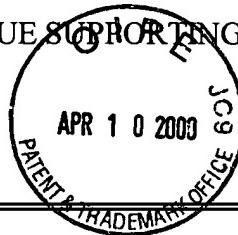
Application No.: 09/427,291

Filed: October 26, 1999

For: IMPROVED TISSUE SUPPORTING
DEVICE

Examiner: (Not yet assigned)

Group Art Unit: 3731



Assistant Commissioner for Patent
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-8606

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications or other information of which he is aware, and which he believes may be material to the examination of this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" to the invention of the above-identified application, unless specifically designated as such.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information exists.

A copy of each of the items listed on accompanying Form PTO 1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

The related co-pending application(s) that we are aware of are listed as follows:

Application Nos.: 08/246,320, filed May 19, 1994, 09/172,590, filed October 14, 1998, 08/737492, filed May 18, 1995 and PCT/US95/06228, filed May 18, 1995 from which priority is claimed and U.S. application 08/789,738 filed January 27, 1997 with a priority date of May 10, 1995.

**Information Disclosure Statement
Application No. 09/427,291
Page 2**

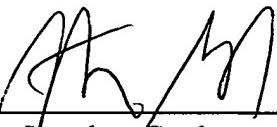
Pursuant to MPEP §2001.06(b), no copies of cited art in a previous application(s) to which priority was claimed need be submitted. Applicant is providing copies of the 1449 Forms filed in these cases for the Examiner's convenience and easy reference.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before receipt of a first Official Action on the merits, whichever occurs last.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

Date: April 6, 2000

By: 
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1. In regard to the above-identified application, we are submitting the attached:
2 page Information Disclosure Statement; 1 page PTO Form 1449; copy of 13 page PTO Form 1449 from parent case; copy of 5 references; VAS Transmittal Letter; and Postcard.
2. With respect to fees:
 - No additional fee is required.
 - Attached is check(s) in the amount of \$_____.
 - Charge additional fee to our Deposit Account No. 22-0350.
3. **CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**
This conditional petition is being filed along with the papers identified in Item 1 above and provides for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time or for a petition and fee for any other matter petitionable to the Commissioner as required. If any extension of time for the accompanying response is required or if a petition for any other matter is required, by petitioner, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor.
4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 above, if any additional fees associated with this communication are required and have not otherwise been paid, including any fee associated with the Conditional Petition for Extension of Time, or any request in the accompanying papers for action which requires a fee as a petition to the Commissioner, please charge the additional fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0350. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment associated with this communication to the Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

By:



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Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this Transmittal Letter and the paper(s) as described herein, are being deposited in the U.S. Postal Service, as FIRST CLASS MAIL, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on April 6, 2000.

Rebecca M. Painschab
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